

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A rubber composition for tire treads, which comprises (A) 100 parts by weight of a diene rubber comprising at least 35 % by weight of a styrene-butadiene rubber, (B) 30 to 50 parts by weight of clay ~~having a particle size of 0.5 to 10 μ m~~, (C) at least 5 parts by weight of silica having a nitrogen absorption specific surface area of 100 to 300 m²/g and (D) 5 to 65 parts ~~at least 1 part~~ by weight of carbon black having a nitrogen absorption specific surface area of 70 to 300 m²/g, and having a total amount of (B) clay and (C) silica of 40 to 79 ~~at least 30 parts~~ by weight and a total amount of (B) clay and, (C) silica and (D) carbon black of 41 to 80 ~~at most 100 parts~~ by weight, wherein (B) clay has an average particle size of 0.5 to 10 μ m.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (Currently Amended) The rubber composition for tire treads of claim 1, which includes ~~comprises~~ (E) a silane-coupling agent.

4. (Previously Amended) A pneumatic tire, which has a tread made of the rubber composition of claim 1.

5. (CANCELLED)

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6. (Previously Presented) A pneumatic tire, which has a tread made of the rubber composition of claim 3.